

Leshy has been the Solicitor for Interior since May 1993. The Solicitor position requires presidential appointment and Senate confirmation. Leshy previously worked in the Solicitor's Office during the Carter Administration. He had returned to Washington from his professorship at the Arizona State University Law School to work as special counsel to the House Interior Committee when he was asked to work on the DOI transition team for the Clinton Administration in 1992. According to Leshy, it was not known that Babbitt would be nominated as Interior Secretary until after Leshy was already working on the transition. When Babbitt was named Secretary, Leshy expressed interest and Babbitt asked him to remain on as Solicitor. Leshy stated that he had known Babbitt as Governor and had been appointed by Babbitt's office to serve on various commissions and boards over the years. Leshy also told investigators that he had known and worked some with Paul Eckstein over the years. They had some interaction when Eckstein acted as prosecutor in the impeachment of a governor of Arizona, because Leshy had written on the aspects of the Arizona constitution that were involved in that proceeding. Leshy also noted that Eckstein serves on the Board of Governors of the ASU Law School.

V. Heather Sibbison was hired in 1993 as a special assistant to the Secretary to assist Duffy. Prior to her DOI employment, Sibbison was an attorney at the Washington law firm of Patton, Boggs & Blow. She had previously worked with Duffy as a law clerk at Pierson, Ball & Dowd, where Duffy had been a partner. At DOI, Sibbison worked closely with Duffy on gaming and other issues, and continued to work on gaming matters after his departure in mid-July 1996. Sibbison said she had some contact with Collier, but virtually no direct contact with the Secretary.